Mr. Flanigan Replies Post 5-1-72

My letter of April 24 to Senator Eastland says:

"On June 29, 1971 Mr. Felix G. Rohatyn visited me in my office, as a result of his telephone request, in order to discuss the current situation of the securities markets. This was one of a series of meetings on this matter with Mr. Rohatyn in his capacity as Chairman of the Surveillance Committee of the New York Stock Exchange."

On April 26 the Washington Post reported this statement as Mr. Rohatayn visiting me in my office, and quotes my letter as saying the purpose was "to discuss the current situation of the securities market . . . in his capacity as Chairman of the Surveillance Committee of the New York Stock Exchange." The Post then makes the point that Rohatyn had resigned as Chairman of the Surveillance Committee eighteen days earlier.

The deliberate exclusion by the Post of parts of two sentences from the middle of the quote from my letter is dishonest reporting. My letter clearly stated that there were *a series of meetings with Mr. Rohatyn in his capacity as Chairman*, as had previously been testified to by both John Mitchell and me. The Post consciously altered the quote, and on the basis of the altered quote, tried to make it appear that I was erroneously explaining the basis of my June 29 meeting with Mr. Rohatyn.

The facts are that there were a series of meetings with Mr. Rohatyn in his Chairman capacity to discuss the health of the capital markets. The last meeting, eighteen days after his resignation as Chairman, was held at his request in order to give a final report on this matter. If the Post had been interested in the facts, it would have pursued its efforts to check what had been actually said with the other two participants in the meeting, instead of manufacturing a deliberate misquote.

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Washington.

Editor's Note: The Post's abbreviation of a paragraph in Mr. Flanigan's letter to Senator Eastland was neither "dishonest" nor a "manufacturing" of a "deliberate misquote," on the contrary, it seems to us to be entirely in accord with what Mr. Flanigan was stating to the Senator: that Mr. Rohatyn visited Mr. Flanigan in the latter's office, on June 29, 1971, to "discuss the current situation of the securities market," and that he did so "in his capacity as Chairman of the Surveillance Committee of the New York Stock Exchange"—a position from which he had actually resigned eighteen days earlier. That this was the last in a series of similar meetings does not seem to us to alter any of these facts.